

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-11 NEA-10 NSAE-00

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

ERDA-05 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SS-15 STR-04 FEA-01 /141 W

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P R 232100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3512

INFO AMC NSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0658

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, BR

SUBJECT: CIEC DIALOGUE

REF: (A) STATE 15466, (B) STATE 9962

1. SUMMARY: DCM PRESENTED US VIEWS PER REF A TO
FONMIN CHIEF OF CABINET SOUTO MAIOR. LATTER SAID THE G-19 WERE
SPLIT ON QUESTION OF DURATION AND FREQUENCY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS.
HE SAID HE DOUBTED THAT THE AGENDA COULD BE DISPOSED OF IN
SHORT MEETINGS, AND PROPOSED THAT COMMISSIONS
ESTABLISH TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS TO FOCUS ON DETAILED
ASPECTS OF THE AGENDA. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPT. REACTIONS TO
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THIS IDEA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 22 DCM PRESENTED US VIEWS ON DURATION AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF CIED COMMISSIONS, TO AMB. SOUTO MAIOR, FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHIEF OF CABINET. SOUTO MAIOR, CHAIRED THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION AT RECENT G-19 MEETINGS IN PARIS, AND IS CLOSELY TIED IN WITH BRAZILIAN CIEC PLANNING. DCM EMPHASIZED STRONG US INTEREST IN SHORT METINGS.

3. SOUTO MAIOR REPLIED THAT DURING THE G-19 MEETINGS THERE WERE COUNTRIES WHICH AGREED SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE US POSITION TO LIMIT MEETINGS TO ONE WEEK'S DURATION. OTHERS, HOWEVER, SEEMED TO ENVISAGE VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS SESSIONS. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A COMPROMISE SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN, HE SAID. HE AGREED WITH THE US THAT MANY COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY SPARING FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME HIGH-POWERED OFFICIALS WHO WERE AT THE SAME TIME FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS AND BACKGROUND OF PROBLEMS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE COMMISSIONS, BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE COMMISSIONS COULD DISPOSE OF THE PRESSING AGENDA ITEMS ON THE BASIS OF THREE-TO-FIVE DAY MEETINGS EVERY FOUR TO SIX WEEKS. THE NINETEEN WILL FAVOR SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS OF ALL FOUR COMMISSIONS, SOUTO MAIOR SAID.

4. SOUTO MAIOR THEN DISCUSSED WITH CONSIDERABLE EN-THUSIASM THE IDEA OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS TO FOCUS ON CERTAIN DETAILED ASPECTS OF THE AGENDA ITEMS AND TO POINT UP AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT BEFORE THESE ITEMS ARE NEGOTIATED IN THE COMMISSIONS. THIS WOULD SPARE THE TIME OF HIGH-POWERED COMMISSIONS DELEGATES. HE FORCAST THAT THIS DEVICE WOULD BE ADOPTED BY AT LAST SOME COMMISSIONS. HE ASKED WHAT THE US THOUGHT OF THE IDEA OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS.

5. DESCRIBING THE LATEST G-19 MEETING, SOUTO MAIOR SAID THE MAJOR CONCERN OF THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WAS OVER THE INDESCRIMINATE PILING ON OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE COMMISSIONS. EACH DELEGATION INSISTED ON HAVING ITS OWN FAVORATE SUBJECTS LISTED, WITH RESULT THAT AGENDAS BECAME IMPOSSIBLY LONG. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, THE BRAZILIAN

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DELEGATION SUGGESTED AN EFFORT TO RANK THE ITEMS IN PRIORITY ORDER, BUT THE IDEA WAS LOST IN THE ADJOURNEMENT SHUFFLE.

6. DCM FURNISHED SOUTO MAIOR THE LIST OF HEADS OF US DELEGATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONS. SOUTO MAIOR SAID THE GOB WOULD FURNISH US ITS LIST AS SOON AS THE DELEGATIONS ARE SELECTED.

7. COMMENT. IDEA OF TECHNICAL WORKING GRUPS, AS SOUTO MAIOR EXPRESSED IT, IS GENERAL AND HENCE SOMEWHAT VAGUE. FOR INSTANCE, HE DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER THE WORKING GROUPS WOULD FUNCTION MAINLY TO PREPARE STUDIES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE COMMISSIONS (I.E., A FUNCTION CLOSE TO THAT OF A SUBSTANTIVE SECRETARIAT), OR WHETHER THE WORKING GROUPS WOULD MEET AS A "LOW-LEVEL" COMMISSION (I.E., TRY TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON CERTAIN ISSUES, PROPOSE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE COMMISSIONS, ETC.). ALSO, HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE ENVISIONED MORE-OR-LESS CONTINUOUS SESSIONS FOR THE WORKING GROUPS. NONETHELESS, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON HIS GENERAL PROPOSAL, IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S REACTION TO SOUTO MAIOR'S IDEA FOR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS, AND ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT HAS ON PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO FLOAT THIS IDEA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL00658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760027-0077
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760129/aaaaazdd.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 15466, 76 STATE 9962
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIEC DIALOGUE
TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, BR, CIEC, (SOUTO MAIOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006